Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00867 131703Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MCE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 IO-13 /088 W -------042180 131710Z/64

O P 131530Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1000

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANA

COMIDEASTFOR

CONFIDENTIAL DJIBOUTI 867

BRUSSELS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 TAGS: PDEV, ET, SO, DJ

SUBJ: STATUS OF ADDIS ABABA-DJIBOUTI RAILROAD OPERATIONS

REF: DJIBOUTI 825 (B) DJIBOUTI 824(NOTAL) (C) ADDIS ABABA 2527 (D) STATE 147928 (E) DJIBOUTI 866

1. DESPITE OUR EARLIER PREDICTION THAT THE RAILROAD WOULD BE REOPENED TO DJIBOUTI-ADDIS ABABA TRAFFIC ON JUNE 11, NO RUN HAS YET BEEN MADE. MEANWHILE, CHARGE SPOKE TO PRIME MINISTER ABDALLAH KAMIL ON JUNE 13 ABOUT DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT (GROD) APPROACH TO SOMALI GOVERNMENT (GSDR) TO URGE THAT MOGADISCIO DISCOURAGE INSURGENT ATTACKS ON LINE. I SUGGESTED THAT GROD CONFIDENTIAL

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MIGHT CITE NON-MILITARY USE OF RAILROAD. KAMIL REPLIED THAT IF CURRENT GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS DID NOT PREVENT (REF E) HE AND TRANSPORT MINISTER MOHAMED DJAMA ELABE INTENDED TO GO TO ADDIS ABABA JUNE 19 TO DISCUSS RAILROAD WITH ETHIOPIAN MINISTERS. HE EXPECTED REOPENING OF RAIL TRAFFIC TO OCCUR SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

2. KAMIL SAID GROD HAD NOT BROUGHT UP SUBJECT WITH SOMALIS

SINCE THEY WOULD ONLY OFFER ECUSES OR WORTHLESS ASSURANCES,

BUT HE THEN SEIZED POINT THAT FRIENDLY POWERS COULD RE PLAUSIBLY MAKE USEFUL REPRESENTATIONS IN MOGADISCIO IF GROD HAD DONE SO FIRST. HE SAID HE WOULD ASK PRESIDENT GOULED TO TAKE MATTER UP PERSONALLY WITH GSDR, BUT THOUGHT GROD SHOULD DO SO ONLY AFTER TALKS HELD WITH ETHIOPIANS. SCOTT

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